

headquarters staff, conducts trade and food aid programs and works with staff from other USDA agencies to analyze world market trends. While the agency is not solely responsible for our large gains in exports over the past five decades, no one could argue it has not provided a crucial assistance in that effort. I salute the work of past and present FAS employees and look forward to their contributions in the future.

#### POLITICAL REFORM IN EGYPT

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, last week I offered an amendment to S. 762, the fiscal year 2003 supplemental appropriations bill, expressing the sense of the Senate for the need of political reform in Egypt. While I withdrew my amendment, I do intend to pursue this issue when the fiscal year 2004 foreign operations appropriations bill is considered on the floor.

I know a number of my colleagues are similarly concerned with the lack of political reform in Egypt, and I hope we have productive discussions on the Senate floor on how U.S. assistance can be better used to promote the development of democratic institutions and practices in that country. It is in the interests of the people of Egypt—and the United States—that freedom of association and thought are promoted and protected.

I will have more to say on this matter at a later date, and I hope my colleagues will join me in addressing this important issue.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am deeply disappointed in the human rights record of Burma. Throughout my time in the Senate, I have consistently been critical of political and human rights abuses in Burma. I have been deeply troubled by reports, confirmed by the U.S. Department of State, that Burmese soldiers have systematically raped Shan women on a massive scale. I am also concerned about repeated charges of forced labor, the suppression of civil liberties, and widespread political repression. Recent events in Burma only serve to heighten my concern.

I am concerned by the recent decision by United Nations human rights envoy Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, to suspend his missions to Burma after finding a hidden listening device in a room where he was interviewing political prisoners. The incident raises very serious concerns about the depth of Burma's commitment to improving conditions within its borders. I am also concerned about the case of Dr. Salai Tun Than, an alumnus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, who was arrested and sentenced in November 2001 after conducting a solitary protest of political conditions in front of Rangoon City Hall.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will continue

to monitor human rights in Burma, as I have on human rights all over the world. Finally, I would like to offer my praise for students at several University of Wisconsin campuses who are working to highlight conditions in Burma. I am impressed by their dedication and heartened by their commitment to justice and freedom for the Burmese people.

#### GRANTING CITIZENSHIP TO IMMIGRANT SOLDIERS WHO DIE IN COMBAT

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues the story of one of my Georgia constituents. It begins with a brave young 3rd Infantry soldier named Diego Rincon.

Diego was a native of Colombia and he came to the United States in 1989 with his family when he was 5 years old. He enjoyed a life of freedom and safety that might not have been possible in Colombia.

Diego was extremely loyal to the country that welcomed him. And after the September 11 attacks, he decided it was time to repay his adopted Nation.

Upon graduation from Salem High School in Conyers, GA, Diego enlisted in the Army. He became a member of the "Rock of the Marne," Fort Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division.

Sadly, Private First Class Rincon was killed March 29 in Iraq by a suicide bomber at a military checkpoint. Diego was 19 years old. Three other members of his 1st Brigade were also killed.

In late February, Diego wrote his final letter home to his mother just as his Brigade was getting ready to move out. Let me read just a little of that letter:

So I guess the time has finally come for us to see what we are made of, who will crack when the stress level rises and who will be calm all the way through it. Only time will tell.

I try not to think of what may happen in the future, but I can't stand seeing it in my eyes. There's going to be murders, funerals and tears rolling down everybody's eyes. But the only thing I can say is, keep my head up and try to keep the faith and pray for better days. All this will pass. I believe God has a path for me.

Whether I make it or not, it's all part of the plan. It can't be changed, only completed.

This 19-year-old was wise beyond his years.

Diego joined the Army for the noblest of reasons. He fought and died in Iraq while defending our Nation's freedom.

And after his death, his family asked one last request of the Government in return for their son's life—to be able to bury him this Thursday as a U.S. citizen.

I am very pleased and proud to announce today that—with the help of the INS—Private First Class Diego Rincon has been awarded U.S. citizenship. This brave soldier will be buried Thursday as a citizen of our great country.

But there are thousands of noncitizens fighting in our military right now.

So, I, along with my fellow senator from Georgia, Senator CHAMBLISS, have introduced legislation calling for citizenship to be granted immediately to any soldier who fights in our armed services and dies in combat.

For those among our troops who are not citizens and who die on the battlefield, I believe the least we can do is to honor them with posthumous citizenship.

And I believe it should be done automatically by the Government, with no delay and no burden on the families.

Under our bill, the families of these brave soldiers would not have to fill out any forms or make any phone calls.

This citizenship would apply only to the deceased soldier and it would not make the soldier's family eligible for any extra benefits or special treatment.

It is simply a final gesture of thanks and gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice these immigrant soldiers have made for their adopted country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND SARA BURCHARD

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Drs. John and Sara Burchard of Burlington, VT as this year's joint recipients of the Kids on the Block—Vermont "Puppets' Choice Award." This award is conferred annually by Kids on the Block—Vermont, a theatrical troupe, part of a national organization, which performs with puppets to deliver messages of personal safety, diversity, and acceptance of disabilities. As honorees, John and Sara are acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to children and families statewide.

Since their arrival in Vermont in 1970, John and Sara, both long-time professors of psychology at the University of Vermont, have worked tirelessly to improve children's care and families' strength. Describing their contributions as "outstanding" is an understatement. Professionally and personally, John and Sara have passionately dedicated themselves to making Vermont's communities better.

John's academic and professional life has focused on children who suffer from emotional and behavioral problems, for whom he has helped develop new methods of care. One example of John's innovation is the "wrap-around" approach, bringing care and services to the families, rather than relying on clinics. John also served on the Burlington School Commission and, during the late Richard Snelling's terms as Governor, as Commissioner of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Sara's specialty lies with children and adults with developmental disabilities. Sara was an important voice of